DC

ALL IN

13+ TEEN 24

LEGACY 824

PART SIX

BAD MOON RISING

THE FLASH™

NO ESCAPE

SPURRIER
GEORGIEV
HERMS

IT'S A NEW DAY IN GOTHAM.

BATMAN #1

Superstars
MATT FRACTION
and **JORGE JIMÉNEZ**
introduce an unforgettable
era of monthly adventures
starring the Caped Crusader

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ALL IN

A fresh start for
DC's flagship
series begins in
SEPTEMBER

Okay. LET'S...

...LET'S JUST THINK THIS THROUGH A SECOND...

WE'RE BURIED IN A DIMENSION OF ***PURE DARKNESS.***

Yeah.

...WHICH IS ***ACTUALLY*** THE (*what?*) THE ***SPIRIT-SCAPE*** OF AN ELEMENTAL ***EVIL.***

Eclipso.

...WHOOO RECENTLY DEVOURED AN ***EVEN GREATER*** FORCE OF EXISTENTIAL ENERGY--

--which was pretending to be our ***dog***--

--*right*, RIGHT-- ***NATURALLY***-- EXCEPT HE CAN'T ***ACCESS*** ITS COLOSSAL POWER YET BECAUSE... *uh...*

...BECAUSE OUR DOG'S ***SUPER NICE*** AND IT WON'T LET HIM.

...A SAD LITTLE KID WITH ***INSECURITY*** ISSUES.

Yep.

Yeah. EXCEPT ***NOW*** IT TURNS OUT, BENEATH ALL THAT ***WRATH*** AND ***HATE,*** ECLIPSO'S ACTUALLY... KINDA...

Yyyeah. I'M STARTING TO SEE WHY YOU DON'T WANT TO BE A SUPERHERO, JAI. I swear it used to be just... ***bank robberies*** and ***punching muggers.***

I mean... YOU DON'T HAVE TO WEAR A UNITARD TO DO THE ***RIGHT THING.***

FOR INSTANCE?

Well... WHAT DOES A ***GOOD PERSON*** DO WHEN SOME-ONE'S ***LOST IN THE DARK?***

...
YOU BRING 'EM INTO THE LIGHT, SON.

BAD MOON RISING
PART SIX
WRITTEN BY
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ART BY
VASCO GEORGIEV
COLORS BY
MATT HERMS
LETTERS BY
HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU
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Wh-what's...?

BEHOLD THE ***INNER TRUTH*** OF ECLIPSO, SCOURGE OF WORLDS.

JUST WANTS A HUG.

WHOOOOO ***DARES*** PSYCHOANALYZE ***THE LORD OF WRATH?!***

No hugs-- got it.

WH-WHAT MANNER OF THING ARE *YOU*, CHILD-- TO RESIST *ME*?

ARE YOU A *GOD*?

THAT'S, *uh.* **TBD.**

I AM *HATE!* I AM *RAGE!*

Yeah, we *got* that memo.

Look-- JUST--HOLD UP A SECOND, WOULD YOU?

YOU GOT ISSUES WITH ***DARKSEID,*** RIGHT? Saved you, neglected you...

...AND NOW HERE YOU ARE, ***YELLING*** AND ***SMASHING STUFF*** WITHOUT STOPPING TO THINK.

ISN'T THIS EXACTLY WHAT ***HE*** WOULD'VE WANTED?

HE... H-HOW D-DARE--

Look, I GUESS I KNOW A LITTLE OF HOW IT FEELS. Any former sidekick *would.*

TO HAVE YOUR WHOLE ***LIFE*** LAID OUT BY ONE PERSON. TO BE SO-- SO IN ***AWE*** OF YOUR MENTOR THAT ***HIS IDENTITY*** ECLIPSES YOUR OWN. BUT--

DAD?

ME TOO.

What do you m...

Oh. R-right.

THE WEIGHT OF EXPECTATIONS. LIKE... YOU ***WANT*** TO STAND ON YOUR OWN FEET, BUT... EVERYTHING ***HE*** IS INFORMS EVERYTHING ***YOU*** ARE.

YOU CAN'T GET AWAY FROM HIS SHADOW, CAN YOU? AND ***YET?*** UNDER IT ***ALL?***

ALL YOU TRULY WANT IS A ***PROUD WORD.***

Jai, I... I'm pr--

I KNOW, DAD. THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE.

HE'S NEVER HAD THAT.

IT DOESN'T *HAVE* TO END IN *HATE*. IT DOESN'T *HAVE* TO DEFINE YOU.

YOU--YOU... YOU HAVE NO *POWER* OVER M--

HE'S RIGHT, PAL.

YOU CAN LOVE SOMETHING AND STILL WANT TO BE DIFFERENT.

AND EVEN IF THE WHOLE DAMN WORLD'S GOT YOU FEELING... ***BROKEN... WORTHLESS...*** IN THE END?

THE ONLY *PRIDE* THAT REALLY MATTERS IS YOUR OWN.

Mm. SINCE WE'RE FLINGING EPIGRAMS, A TRUTH LEARNED FROM TOO MANY DECADES OF VILLAINY--

--WRATH AND RANCOR ARE ALWAYS THE FRUITS OF FEAR.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID ANYMORE.

This has been a *VERY* unsatisfying super-battle.

... I MUST *THINK.*

GO HOME, ALL OF YOU.

GO HOME TO THOSE YOU LOVE.

...split...

...and split...

...and split...

Hey, look. The enemy. I think they're pausing...

...PERHAPS... WE HAVE A LITTLE MORE TIME? PERHAPS-- I-IF WE ALL SPLIT...?

THE AURA CAN'T MAINTAIN COHERENCE WITH MULTIPLE SHARDS, BUT... hhh...

...I GUESS IT DOESN'T HAVE TO.

THE... THE FOCUS... TOO SPREAD OUT...

VWOP

VWOP

VWOP

VWOP

VWOP

THESE SHARDS... TWISTED THINGS. LIKE... ECHOES OF BROKEN TIMELINES...

VWOP

The final perversion of the Scarlet Speedster. DOESN'T MATTER--

--AS LONG AS THEY CAN FIGHT.

HEY.

IREY... H-HOW DID--

MADE MY **OWN** CHRONOSPHERE. DON'T NEED YOUR PERMISSION TO BE HERE.

SWEETIE, I-- I DON'T HAVE T--

NO.

YOU'RE THE **ORIGINAL,** RIGHT? YOU'RE THE **FLASH.** YOU'RE MY **DAD.**

BUT YOU'RE **BROKEN** AND YOU'VE $*#@Language! IT ALL UP--

Language!

Language!

Language!

Language!

SHUT UP! I'M **HERE** AND I-- I'M SCARED ABOUT ALL THIS **POWER** INSIDE ME-- AND I **NEED** YOU, DAD-- WE **ALL** NEED YOU!-- AND I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO PARENT **YOU**-- AND--AND--

Don't you dare send me away so you can die up here alone.

MOM WOULD BE **SO** MAD.

Heh.

I'M NOT HIM. NOT THE ***ONE TRUE FLASH.***

WHAT?

THIS PROCESS... THE WAY IT WORKS. WE'RE NOT ***COPIES,*** IREY. WE'RE NOT JUST... ECHOES OF SOME ***FLASH PRIME.*** WE SPLIT.

WE'RE ***ALL*** HIM. OR NONE OF US ARE.

I'VE BEEN HERE THE LONGEST. SEEN THE MOST DEATH. BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME MORE REAL.

EITHER ***EVERY*** STORY MATTERS OR NONE OF THEM DO.

I KNOW MY DAUGHTER NEEDS ME. I KNOW I'M SUPPOSED TO... HOLD HER. GIVE HER A SMILE. A KIND WORD.

But...

Faster. Farther. Better. Harder and darker and deeper.

I'VE GIVEN SO MUCH TO THE RACE, I'VE FORGOTTEN HOW TO ***STAND TALL.***

THE *LINEAR BUREAU.* WE'RE BACK.

Uh. I THINK.

DID IT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE? WHERE'S *PILGRIM?* THE *OLDER ONE*-- FARTHER DOWN THE TIMELINE-- WE NEED TO--

DAD? JAI?

Huh.

I ALWAYS WONDERED IF YOU CAME THROUGH HERE BEFORE GOING BACK TO THE MOON...

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU? WE WERE RIGHT H--

PERSPECTIVE. THE *TIMELINE.* THE FUTURE'S CHANGED FOR *US,* NOT FOR HIM.

Uh--WADE? WE JUST GOT THROUGH HELPING *ECLIPSO* WITH A LITTLE *SELF-KNOWLEDGE.*

WE WERE HOPING IT'D MAKE THINGS *BETTER,* BUT... ALL THIS WRECKAGE... IT'S KINDA...

OMINOUS.

Mm. YOU WANT A DONUT?

IS-- IS THAT--?

FVHE TIMELINE, mm. FFINGULAR. VHERE UFED TO BE A LOAD OF 'EM, BUT... eh.

ECLIPFFO. FFELF-KNOWLEDGE.

I CAN'T HELP NOTICING IT'S CUT OFF AT THE TOP.

Mmm.

Y'know, I THINK I WILL TAKE A DONUT.

FOXY WAS THE PROBLEM.

A JUVENILE SOURCE. THE SEED OF A NEW ***EVERY-THING.*** A BABY ***PRESENCE.***

UNTHINKABLE POWER WITH A MIND AS ***IMPRESSIONABLE*** AS WET CLAY.

THANKS TO ***OUR*** FAMILY, FOXY IMPRINTED ON A PARADIGM OF... LOVE AND LOYALTY.

AND FOR A WHILE THAT WAS ENOUGH TO HOLD ELICPSO'S HATE-- HIS ***FEAR***-- AT BAY.

THEN ***YOU*** TAUGHT HIM HOW TO LET GO OF ALL THAT.

RECONCILED TO HIS OWN... ***CONFUSED*** NATURE, ECLIPSO PONDERED HIS OWN HURT... HIS OWN ***DYNASTIC DYSFUNCTION.***

HE ADJUSTED HIS AMBITIONS IN THE LIGHT OF ***LOVE.***

AND POOR, SWEET LITTLE FOXY-- TOO NAIVE TO SEE THE UGLINESS AND HORROR, RECOGNIZING ONLY THE MARKS OF ***FAMILY FIDELITY***--

--RELEASED HIS POWER INTO THE HANDS OF THE BEAST.

WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN, ***FAMILY FIDELITY?***

AFTER YOUR INTERVENTION, ECLIPSO SHIFTED HIS PLANS.

HE'D SOUGHT TO DARKEN THE EARTH, RIGHT? CREATING A WAVE OF DESPAIR AND MISERY TO OVERCOME FOXY'S DEFENSES.

BUT INSTEAD?

HE TURNED THE EARTH INTO A ***MONUMENT TO DARKSEID.***

"A ***TOMB-THRONE,*** CARVED ON THE TORTURED FACE OF THE WORLD THAT HAD VEXED THE OLD DEVIL SO SORELY.

"A CHILD'S ***GIFT*** TO THE MEMORY OF THE SURROGATE FATHER WHOSE LOVE HE CRAVED-- ***CROWNED*** WITH THE COLD ***ZERO*** OF AN ETERNAL ECLIPSE."

SO HE... HE STILL HAD TO SHIFT THE MOON?

SAME PLAN, DIFFERENT GOAL. SOMETIMES THAT'S ALL IT TAKES.

BUT WE ***HELPED*** HIM! WE ***FIXED*** HIM! HOW CAN HE BE ***EVIL*** AFTER ***THAT?***

BOTH THINGS CAN BE TRUE.

VICTORY ON THE MOON. THAT'S WHERE THE TIMELINES BUNCH. THINGS MOVE FAST AFTER THAT.

WITH HIS FILIAL OBLIGATIONS ATTENDED TO... WITH SOMETHING A LITTLE LIKE LOVE IN HIS HEART, BYPASSING FOXY'S RESTRAINTS...

"...THE HEIR OF DARKSEID ASCENDS.

"AND SNUFFS THE STARS WITH A SMILE."

LOVE ISN'T ALWAYS THE ANSWER, GUYS. Sorrrry.

PEOPLE DO REALLY BAD THINGS FOR LOVE.

WH-WHEN DOES THIS ALL HAPPEN?

RELATIVE TO WHEN YOU LEFT? DAYS. HOURS.

I REMEMBER IT. THIS IS THE LAST BUBBLE OF SPACE-TIME HE HASN'T DEVOURED-- EVERYTHING JUST LOOPS IN ON ITSELF. BUT I REMEMBER TELLING YOU--

VHE END HAFF BEGUN.

Uh. GUYS?

WHAT'S GOING ON OUT HERE?

WADE? **THANK GOD.** TAKE YOUR BIG SISTER, GET HER TO SAFETY, AND--

Uh-- **ACTUALLY?** NO CAN DO.

SORRY, DAD. SOMETHING'S CHANGED.

IT'S THE **ENEMY**--THEY'RE **MULTIPLYING.** GROWING. THE POWER'S **SPIKING** SO FAST I CAN'T KEEP TRACK.

A-AND **SOMETHING ELSE.**

VENTS. ENERGY PYLONS. **EIGHT OF THEM,** GOING UP LIKE AMISH BARNS. ONE HOUR-- TWO AT MOST-- HE CAN FLY THIS MOON WHEREVER HE LIKES.

I THINK... THE **END** HAS BEGUN.

I don't know what to do.

THAT'S... hh.

THAT'S A REAL GOOD **START,** DAD.

HEY. WE, *uh.*

WE MIGHT'VE-- *accidentally--*

WE WANTED TO... *um.*

FLASH!

I SEEK PARLEY.

I ADDRESS YOU WITHOUT RAGE NOR HATE.

IT IS THANKS TO YOU-- SOME PART OF YOU-- THAT I HAVE OVERCOME SUCH TAWDRY DRIVES.

Y-you mean... THE WAR'S OVER?

YES. OH YES.

Oh... thank god. I--

YOU ARE DEFEATED. MY MIGHT IS UNPRECEDENTED. TO CONTINUE TO RESIST WOULD BE ABSURD.

I HAVE BECOME A DESTROYER OF UNIVERSES. I COULD ERASE YOU IN-- heh-- A FLASH.

BUT... YOU SAID-- NO MORE HATE. NO MORE RAGE!

YES. I SHALL END THIS REALITY NOT IN SOME PETTY FIT OF PIQUE...

BUT BECAUSE IT IS MY RIGHT.

MY LEGACY.

Wh--

Wh--

Wh--

--WHAT DID YOU DO?!

TO BE CONCLUDED!

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DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

BATMAN

ALL IN

INTERVIEW WITH MATT FRACTION

Returning to a monthly DC series for the first time since the Eisner Award-winning *Superman's Pal Jimmy Olsen*, writer Matt Fraction talks his plans as the new *Batman* series writer—the dream job he's trained for since he was three—and teaming with superstar artist Jorge Jiménez, someone who is very familiar with the Gotham City streets.

What is your vision for the series and the character?

Matt Fraction: Between the end of Chip Zdarsky and Jorge Jiménez's run and where things are in *H2SH*, it felt like a moment for a new day in Gotham. We got a new Batmobile, we got a new costume, we got new characters.

This is the book that brought me into comics. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for *Batman*. It was the first comic I ever read. Some part of me has been waiting to this since I was three, and I have a lot of ideas and cool stories to tell. And it's a new #1! There's only been three or four of those!

How are you looking to approach the tone of the book?

Part of the reason Batman has lasted as long and has resonated as loudly as he has as a character is because he's incredibly resilient. He can be all kinds of things to all different people all at the same time, whether in comics, animation, or movies.

To me, [the new *Batman* series] is Batman central. It's a very superhero forward take on Batman. There's a lot of detective-ing, there's a lot of supervillains. All the stuff that makes Batman the coolest character in comics. I want to celebrate it all and give it all a chance to shine.

We're doing self-contained issues. Each issue is a full beginning, middle, end, and builds as the series goes. Every issue is a new adventure, a new style, a new flavor, a new take.

What's it like working with Jorge Jiménez?

He's a dream. He's incredible. He's fast. He's brilliant. There's nothing I've thrown at him so far that he's not been able to draw. Both of us are trying to make this the Batman book we most wish we can read in the world, and it's a whole lot of fun.

Which villains are you excited to write?

Killer Croc is in the first issue. Croc has gone through some changes with all the changes happening in Gotham. We have new villains coming—a lot of classic villains as well.

DON'T MISS
***BATMAN* #1,**
ON SALE SEPTEMBER!

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